Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

We are writing to urge you to schedule a vote on a comprehensive drug importation bill during the first session of the 109th Congress.

As you know, H.R. 2427, the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act, passed the House with a resounding bipartisan majority of 243 to186 in July, 2003. In the months following this vote, dozens of states, counties, and municipalities have proposed or implemented their own drug importation programs in the absence of federal action and in order to help constituents access the drugs they need at affordable prices. This list includes Montgomery County, Maryland, home to the FDA.

Importation has been endorsed by consumer groups, pharmacies, and advocacy organizations. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services recently authorized the direct purchase of flu vaccine from Germany.

We believe that the Administration, specifically the FDA, should present a plan to Congress on how to implement a safe and effective drug importation plan. In the absence of their actions, we believe that American consumers deserve a vote on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Gil Gutknecht

Rahm Emanuel

Jo Ann Emerson

Sherrod Brown

Dan Burton

Bernie Sanders

Anne Northup

Rosa DeLauro

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